Alice Lee Brewer 53 Pine View Dr. Bluffton, SC 29910

January 5, 2011

The Honorable Jocelyn D. Boyd Chief Clerk and Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive Suite 100 Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Application of May River Water Company, Inc. for Adjustment of Rates and Charges and Modifications to Certain Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Water Service (Docket No. 2010-132-W)

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matter are the original and one (1) copy of the Response to the Motion to Dismiss May River Plantation Owners' Association, Inc. This response is being made on behalf of the individual property owners of May River Plantation who will be affected by the proposed rate increase. For your convenience, a list of May River Plantation Owners is again attached.

By copy of this letter, we are serving, as individuals, all parties of record in this proceeding with a copy of same and enclose a certificate of service to that effect.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Very tryly yours

Ms. A. L. Brewe

Cc: Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esquire

Mr. Benjamin P. Mustian

Mr. Thomas A. Smith, III Ms. Shealy Boland Reibold

Mr. Joseph Highsmith

Lee Brewer 843-757-5577 p.3

## **BEFORE**

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### **DOCKET NO. 2010-132-W**

Application of May River Water	) RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S	S
Company, Inc. for adjustment of	) MOTION TO DISMISS MAY RIV	ER
rates and charges and modifications	) PLANTATION OWNERS'	
to certain terms and conditions for	) ASSOCIATION, INC.	
the provision of water service.	)	
•	)	

As parties affected by the above application, both the May River Plantation Owners' Association, Inc. ("MRPOA") and its individual members originally filed a petition to intervene in this rate case, "on behalf of itself and its members." As financial concerns have precluded the MRPOA from further representation by attorneys and therefore it cannot respond as an entity to this motion, the individual members of the association hereby respond to the Applicant's Motion to Dismiss. As set out herein, the individuals ("we") listed below, encourage the Commission to deny the Motion.

We are literally stunned by this motion. The May River Water Company ("MRWC") has moved to dismiss MRPOA and its individual members from this case for an alleged failure to articulate "that the individual members be made parties of record". As only two of the 30 customers listed by the MRWC are the MRPOA itself, with the remaining 28 customers being individual homeowners within the plantation, it is clear that the primary customer base for this utility is that of the individual homeowners, who have a right to speak and cross-examine witnesses as they deem appropriate.

In light of the withdrawal of legal representation for MRPOA in this case on December 22, 2010, the individual members understand that, under the Commission's rules, they cannot proceed as an association without such representation. However, we are a very small association (approximately 30 lots/members) and the interests of the association and the individual members are essentially the same. Mr. Highsmith is an individual property owner, and his testimony can and does stand on its own as the testimony of Mr. Highsmith, not of the MRPOA.

In at least four separate "matters" filed with the Commission, the rights of the individual members to be parties of record and to testify in public in this rate case were asserted. <sup>1</sup> If the MRWC objected to the individuals participating on their own behalf in these proceedings with full privileges to cross-examine or speak to the facts in this rate case, there were plenty of opportunities to do so before this. MRWC's efforts to keep our individual households from participating in a proceeding that directly and substantially impacts our financial interests are heavy-handed and improper.

[\*]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Matter ID 226459, Matter ID 226501, Matter ID 226991, Matter ID 227414.

The costs of legal representation to our association have become burdensome for our small community, but we should not be penalized because Water Utility Management has deeper pockets for such expense. Ironically, these very same legal costs for MRWC end up being future grounds for more rate cases and therefore become yet another potential burden to our homeowners.

The affected homeowners would like to conduct cross-examination of the other parties' witnesses, believing that doing so would add clarity to the case. The members will streamline that process as much as possible so as not to be duplicative. Because the interests of the members are essentially identical, it will not be necessary to have more than a few of our members asking questions. The members are willing to designate those people in advance if it would be helpful to the Commission. Those persons designated would be asking questions on behalf of him/herself severally and not as a representative of the group.

## CONCLUSION

Participation by representative homeowners in this proceeding will allow the Commission to have all the information it needs to make a fully informed decision in this case. We therefore request the Commission to deny the Applicant's Motion and to affirm the ability of individual customers to not only be public witnesses, but to cross-examine where appropriate.

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Lee Brewer, and the Individual Homeowners residing in the May River Plantation

**May River Plantation Owners** 

	May Nivel Flantation	<b>5WIICI 5</b>	
LOT#	NAME OF OWNERS	MAILING ADDRESS	
1	Jeffrey and Michelle Banfield	1 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910-6807	
2	Rick and Angela Sotiropoulos	9 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
3	Paul and Linda Good	13 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
4	Misty Montie	17 Pine View Dr, Bluffton, SC 29910	
5	Steve and Kathy White	25 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
6	Bill Staerk	29 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
7	Kathy Cuppia, or below	PO Box 1256, Bluffton, SC 29910	
7	Inez Long	PO Box 1745, Bluffton, SC 29910	
8	Dorothy Smith	33 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
8	Greg Smith	33 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
9	Elaine Parker	35 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
10	Juan C. Ortega	37 Pine View, SC 29910	
11	Byron and Debbie Hack	PO Box 38, Montmorenci, SC 29839	
12	Joe and Mary Highsmith	41 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
13	Bobby and Stephanie Mendenhall	47 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
14	Glenn and Louanne LaRoche-Knight	51 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
14a	Bob and Lee Brewer	53 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
15	Ed and Johnnee Pinckney	67 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
16	Hugh and Mary Ann Golden	71 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
17	Leslie and Robin Johnson	77 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
17a	T. Compton Groff	PO Box 91, Bluffton,SC 29910	
18	Richard and Susan Folz	80 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
19	Butch and Linda Weber	20 Barton Run Dr.	
20	Stacy and Dylan Floyd	70 Pine View Dr.	
21	Michael and Diane Mikkelson	66 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	
22	Terry and Barbara Barry	P.O. Box 1725, Bluffton, SC 29910	
23	Claude Parker Cook, Jr.	23 Martingale East, Bluffton,SC 29910	
24	Kevin Stout	20 Millers Mill Rd., Cream Ridge, NJ, 78514	
25	Lionel and Carolyn Facemire	17 May River Rd., Bluffton,SC 29910	
26	Floyd (father)		
	Jim and Tammy Sauter	PO Box 745, Bluffton SC 29910	
27			
27 28		20 Pine View Dr. , Bluffton, SC 29910	
27 28 29	Don and Dixie Paul Charles Sabella	20 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910 12 Pine View Dr., Bluffton, SC 29910	

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Application of May River Water	)	
Company, Inc. for adjustment of	)	
rates and charges and modifications	)	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
to certain terms and conditions for	)	
the provision of water service.	)	
	)	

This is to certify that I have caused to be served this day one (1) copy of the Response to Applicant's Motion to Dismiss May River Plantation Owners' Association, Inc. by placing same in the care and custody of the United States Postal Service with first class postage affixed thereto and addressed as follows:

Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esquire Office of Regulatory Staff Post Office Box 11263 Columbia, South Carolina 29211 Mr. Benjamin P. Mustian Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A. Post Office Box 8416 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Ms. Shealy Boland Reibold Office of Regulatory Staff 1401 Main Street, Suite 900 Columbia, South Carolina 29201 Mr. Thomas A. Smith, III May River Water Company, Inc. Post Office Box 13705 Savannah, Georgia 31416

Mr. Joseph Highsmith 41 Pine View Drive Bluffton, South Carolina 29910

Lee Brewer

Bluffton, South Carolina This 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011